

UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND
INSTITUTE OF DISTANCE EDUCATION
MAIN EXAMINATION PAPER, DECEMBER 2015

TITLE OF PAPER: PROFESSIONAL ENGLISH I

COURSE CODE: CAE117

TIME ALLOWED: THREE (3) HOURS

INSTRUCTIONS:

- **THE PAPER CONSISTS OF THREE (3) SECTIONS.**
- **SECTION A IS COMPULSORY**
- **ANSWER TWO QUESTIONS FROM SECTION B**
- **ANSWER ONE QUESTION FROM SECTION C.**

**N. B. THIS PAPER MUST NOT BE OPENED UNTIL PERMISSION
HAS BEEN GRANTED BY THE INVIGILATOR.**

SECTION A

Instructions

- Read the following passage carefully and answer all the questions below.
- This section is compulsory.

“Surfing”

1. There were no milk deliveries to residences on Saturdays, only to commercial businesses, and there were relatively few of these in the neighbourhood. My father would finish his deliveries early, and then drive by the house for my brother and I could “surf the truck.” The empty metal milk crates were by then stacked and roped off against the side panels to prevent them from sliding and bouncing around when he turned corners. His careful stacking left most of the back empty, and Peter and I would stand in the space created; our feet planted firmly on the ribbed floor, and pretend to surf, our arms out at our sides to keep our balance as the truck rattled along the wide streets. I always surfed in the forward position, an advantage because I could see the turns coming. Peter, as athletic in the milk truck as he was elsewhere, surfed more or less blind behind me. Not being able to see what was coming made the game that much more fun, he claimed, though I did help him by calling out “Left!” or “Sharp right!” when a turn approached. The idea was to make it through these turns without grabbing the empty milk crates for balance or the rail that ran the length of the truck, my father giggling appreciatively up front in the driver’s seat as we crashed about.
2. Of course my father wasn’t supposed to take us on his route, but the rules were lax and people did it all the time. There was no passenger seat, since there weren’t supposed to be any passengers, so if my father braked hard, there was nothing to stop us but the metal dash. My father would try to grab us as we flew by, and he was good at it, but you never knew what his big fist would grab hold of—an arm, your hair.
3. “No, you are not going to do any surfing today,” he’d tell us first thing each Saturday. “Your mother is totally against it.” My mother said that pretty clear earlier on because Peter had come home with a knot on his forehead, and she had wanted to know why, so he’d explained how we always surfed the milk truck. It was fun, he said, and not really

dangerous because my father never went fast. Which was true—you couldn't go fast in a milk truck even if you tried.

4. But the next Saturday, when we pulled up in the truck, she came out, too, and took my father aside. "Tell me about this surfing," she demanded, leaning toward him aggressively, her cheeks rosy red. Lately, things had gotten a little easier between them, so much so that my father had remarked on it, even speculating that she had decided to bury the hatchet.
5. My father explained to her how devoted we were to our surfing on Saturday mornings, how we looked forward to it all week, how she should hear how we laughed and enjoyed the ride. That saved our skins because my mother understood how exciting the whole game was. He said he was sorry about Peter getting that lump on his head last week. It was Peter's fearlessness, his refusal to grab on to the rail or the stacked crates to keep from going flying, which had caused the injury. "Don't worry," my father assured her. "I keep a pretty good eye on them."
6. "You better had," My mother said. "If anything happens to my boy in that truck, you're responsible." So, the following Saturday, the new rule was No Surfing the Truck, but that made us miserable. There was no reason to be in the truck if we were not allowed to surf. "Just a little," we pleaded. "Just five minutes? Just around this one corner? Pleeeeease?" And so it was that we wore my father down. Over time we went from No Surfing to No Surfing Till We're Headed Back Home, thus limiting the amount of time for an injury to occur, to Be Careful, You Two, Because your mother Will Skin Me Alive If you get Hurt.
7. Why so much worry about us getting hurt? Well, because that's what invariably happened. Otherwise, how would we know the game was over? Of course our injuries were not serious—a jammed finger, a skinned knee, usually—and most Saturdays we surfed until I cried, because Peter, when he was injured, refused to cry, so my father didn't know he'd been hurt and the fun could continue.

8. I deeply envied Peter's self-control and tried my best to emulate him, even as I suspected I'd never master the trick. Why he never cried was an even deeper mystery to me. Every Saturday I'd tell myself that I wasn't going to cry, but when the time came and I went crashing into the side of the truck, and my father, hearing the impact, turned around in his seat to check on us, my resolution would dissolve, not so much because of the pain as from his expression, which suggested that he knew I was hurt, that I couldn't fool him anyway, so why try? And then the tears would just be there, brimming over, no holding them back.
9. Not before long we'd forgotten all about my mother's solemn warning, and why not? She had to know we were back at it. One or the other of us always got off the milk truck limping or rubbing an elbow, but we were also in high spirits, laughing and shouting and trying to get my father to promise we'd do it again next Saturday. This wasn't hard work, since he enjoyed the whole thing about as much as we did. He never talked about his own childhood, but according to my mother it couldn't really be called a childhood at all, just an unrelenting series of chores, from sunrise to sunset, bleak and unending, which was why, she explained.
10. And so our milk-truck surfing ended the only way it could. I didn't actually see Peter break his wrist when he was flung against the side of the truck. I heard the bone snap, though. What saved me from suffering the same fate was my cowardice. I'd seen the curve coming and at the last second reached out and grabbed one of the tied-off milk crates. Peter, taken by surprise, went flying. He must've known that his wrist was broken, because he went very pale, and when our eyes met and he saw my shock and fear, he immediately sat down with his back to the panel, cradling his hand in his lap against the truck's vibrations. I think what my father heard wasn't the terrible crack of Peter's wrist but only the silence that followed, and he immediately called back to us, wanting to know if we were all right. When Peter refused to speak, I said that we were, but he knew better. If we weren't whooping and hollering back there, something was wrong, and more seriously wrong than what happened every other Saturday morning.

Adapted from "from Bridge of Sighs" by Richard Russo

Questions

From paragraph 1

1. Why would the father allow the boys to “surf the truck” only on Saturdays? [3]
2. The crates were by then “*roped off*,” What does roped off mean? [2]
3. Why would the writer surf in front position? [2]
4. Why did Peter prefer to surf behind the writer? [2]

From paragraph 2

5. Based on paragraph 2, what happened as the rides in the truck continued? [2]

From paragraph 3

6. Why was the writers’ mother against the surfing? [3]
7. Why, according to the paragraph does the writer believe surfing was not dangerous? [3]

From paragraph 4

8. Why does the author believe “things had gotten a little easier between them?” [2]

From paragraph 7

9. What two pieces of evidence, indicate that surfing was actually a dangerous game. [2]
10. Why was it difficult to tell whether Peter was injured or not? [2]

From paragraph 8

11. Based on paragraph 8, what is the main reason the narrator is intrigued with Peter’s refusal to cry? [2]

From paragraph 9

12. Based on paragraph 9, what is the main reason the narrator’s father lets the boys surf the truck? [2]

From paragraph 10

13. What, according to the writer, saved the writer from getting injured? [2]
14. What alerted the father that the boys could be in trouble at the back of the truck? [3]

From paragraph 10

15. Quote a short phrase that describes the Peter's reaction when he realised that Peter has fractured her wrist. [3]

From the whole passage

16. Choose **five** of the following words. For each word, give one word or short phrase (of not more than seven words) which has the same meaning that the word or phrase has in the passage.

- a. Residences paragraph 1
- b. Lax paragraph 2
- c. Knot paragraph 3
- d. Fearlessness paragraph 11
- e. Pour in paragraph 11
- f. Emerged paragraph 11

[5]

[Total marks=40]

SECTION B: ANSWER TWO QUESTIONS FROM THIS SECTION

Question 2

Give an example of an English sentence with the following parts of speech. Provide one example per question.

- a. A proper noun [2]
- b. A common noun [2]
- c. An abstract noun [2]
- d. A personal pronoun [2]
- e. A demonstrative pronoun [2]
- f. Adverb of frequency [2]
- g. Adjective of colour [2]
- h. Coordination conjunction [2]
- i. Subordinating conjunction [2]
- j. Adverb of place [2]

[20 marks]

Question 3

Rewrite the following sentences and insert an appropriate preposition to complete the sentence:

1. It is so noisy _____ I can't concentrate _____ my homework.
2. Don't worry _____ I'll pay _____ the tickets.
3. The car belongs _____ my father, _____ I don't think we can use it.
4. I borrowed a pen _____ my classmate _____ she gave me a pencil.
5. I've been waiting _____ the bus for more than twenty minutes!
6. My books disappeared _____ my desk. I found them _____ my friend's table.
7. When we arrived _____ the cinema, the film had already started.
8. Please explain this problem _____ us.
9. She was listening _____ the radio when the doorbell rang.
10. Please be quiet _____ I need to concentrate _____ this book.
11. I want to go _____ the beach tomorrow _____ it depends _____ the weather.

[20 marks]

Question 4

Identify and specify the part of speech of the underlined words

- a. I always walk lazily to the park on weekends.
- b. I love to have hot coffee on cold winter days.
- c. How many sandwiches did your friend eat yesterday?
- d. She walked lazily on the tarred pavement.
- e. These flowers are very beautiful.
- f. I took a walk because I need some fresh air.
- g. Most of my friends speak Afrikaans.
- h. Mdzimba is the highest mountain in Manzini.
- i. Thabo is the best student in our English class.
- j. Although the test was difficult, they passed with flying colours.

[20 marks]

SECTION C: ANSWER ONE QUESTION FROM THIS SECTION

Question 5

Read the following paragraph and answer the questions below it.

Paragraphs

Writing a short paragraph can be a simple task to accomplish provided a student includes all of the essential elements. First, the student must write a solid topic sentence. This should be the first sentence in the paragraph and should state the main idea. Secondly, add supporting or text-based details. These details can come from notes, directly from the passage, or from research, as long as they help to answer the question completely and accurately. Thirdly, a good paragraph will also use some transition words to help connect and explain ideas. Some common transition words include first, second, when, as a result, and on the other hand. Finally, the paragraph needs a closing sentence. This final thought should sum up the main idea while pulling everything together. In the end, though, a strong short paragraph should also follow the rules of the English language. Without complete sentences, proper spelling, punctuation, grammar and usage, your writing is not clear and effective. Lastly, if a student keeps these elements in mind, writing a short paragraph should come easily and naturally.

- a. Identify the topic sentence of the paragraph. [3]
- b. Identify five linking words that indicate order or time change. [5]
- b. Identify a linking word that indicates cause and effect. [1]
- c. Identify one linking word that indicates contrast [1]
- d. Choose **one** topic from the following and write a paragraph of not more than ten lines. Your paragraph must take into consideration the principles of a good paragraph.
 - i) Child protection rights
 - ii) HIV/AIDS
 - iii) Child-headed families. [10]

[20 marks]

Question 6

Read the following questions and indicate whether each sentence is declarative, imperative, interrogative or exclamatory.

- a. Wow! What a stunning performance. [2]
- b. She bought a new car last week. [2]
- c. Who bought you the green shirt? [2]
- d. This examination is very easy. [2]
- e. Ouch! You stepped on my toe. [2]
- f. Get out! [2]
- g. Your handwriting is not eligible. [2]
- h. Less noise! [2]
- i. When did you write your English paper? [2]
- j. The students are writing a test. [2]

[20 marks]

-----**END OF EXAMINATION**-----